

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY MEXICO PRIORITY
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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 155593

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, OTRA (GRUEN, GEORGE), SY, US

SUBJECT: SYRIAN JEWRY: VISIT TO MEXICO OF GEORGE GRUEN

1. DR. GEORGE GRUEN OF THE AMERICAN JEWISH COMMITTEE HAS BEEN IN REGULAR TOUCH WITH NEA ON MOVES TO EASE THE PLIGHT OF THE SYRIAN JEWISH COMMUNITY. SITUATION OF SYRIAN JEWRY HAS EASED SIGNIFICANTLY OVER PAST YEAR, IN PART BECAUSE OF QUIET DIPLOMACY WE HAVE BEEN PURSUING. VIRTUALLY ALL FORMS OF OFFICIALLY SPONSORED DISCRIMINATION AGAINST SYRIAN JEWRY HAVE BEEN ELIMINATED OR REDUCED SIGNIFICANTLY. EMIGRATION, HOWEVER, IS STILL PROHIBITED, ALTHOUGH SYRIAN AUTHORITIES AT THE HIGHEST LEVELS HAVE INDICATED THAT--ON A CASE-BY-CASE BASIS--THEY MAY BE PREPARED TO AGREE TO THE EMIGRATION OF SOME UNMARRIED SYRIAN JEWISH WOMEN, IF THEY
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HAD A CREDIBLE AND LEGITIMATE REASON FOR GOING TO THE U.S. (E.G., TO MARRY THEIR FIANCES). WE ARE CURRENTLY BEGINNING A TEST PROGRAM TO DETERMINE WHETHER THE SYRIANS WILL GO ALONG WITH SOME ARRANGED MARRIAGES, DEVELOPED THROUGH THE PRESENTATION OF MARRIAGE PROPOSALS FROM CERTAIN MALES OF SYRIAN JEWISH ORIGIN HERE IN THE U.S. THE FACT THAT SYRIAN JEWISH WOMEN HAVE DIFFICULTY IN FINDING A HUSBAND

IN SYRIA CONSTITUTES THE MOST SERIOUS SOCIAL PROBLEM
FACING THE JEWISH COMMUNITY THERE.

2. DR. GRUEN IS VISITING MEXICO ON JULY 9-10 AND WILL
BE IN CONSULTATION WITH SERGIO NUDELSTEJER, WHO IS KNOWN
TO THE EMBASSY. SINCE THERE IS A SYRIAN JEWISH COMMUNITY
IN MEXICO, GRUEN MAY BE EXPLORING WAYS IN WHICH THE
MEXICAN JEWISH COMMUNITY MAY--LIKE ITS AMERICAN
COUNTERPARTS--FIND A WAY TO BRING UNMARRIED SYRIAN
JEWISH WOMEN TO MEXICO.

2. THE FOREGOING IS PROVIDED FYI SO THAT YOU WILL UNDER-
STAND THE BACKGROUND OF GRUEN'S MISSION. VANCE

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Message Attributes

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